



# PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **CROSS PLAINS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT**

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Thomas Kobinsky, DOB 11-17-55, of Cross Plains, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to using the means of identification of another person with the intent to commit unlawful activity. U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for June 27, 2005, at 1:15 pm. Kobinsky faces a maximum penalty of three years in prison.

Kobinsky acknowledged at the plea hearing that he engaged in a campaign of harassment against a victim following an altercation that occurred in Spring 2004. The victim lives adjacent to a soccer field, and Kobinsky held a grudge against the victim based on an incident when the victim swore at a minor soccer player. On September 17, 2004, Kobinsky left a message on the victim's home answering machine. Calling the victim by name, Kobinsky said "beware," and warned the victim to expect unwanted deliveries, a disconnection of power to the victim's residence, and arrest warrants for the victim and the victim's spouse.

From September 2004 until his arrest in January 2005, Kobinsky caused the victim and the victim's spouse to receive a flood of unauthorized and unsolicited mail,

publications, C.O.D. shipments of goods, and telephone calls. In addition, Kobinsky made unauthorized applications for a bank loan, credit card, and an on-line trading account in the names of the victim and the victim's spouse. In addition, Kobinsky caused an announcement to be placed in a local newspaper that falsely announced the victim was starting a new business.

The charges against Kobinsky were the result of an investigation conducted by the Dane County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Secret Service. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Acting United States Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott.

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